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 UNCLASSIFIED
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 -----R 251352Z SEP 85
 FM FBIS LONDON UK
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FYI: YOUTH PAPER PROFILES SOLDIERS SERVING IN DRA

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<> MOSCOW <><>KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA<><> IN RUSSIAN 25 SEPTEMBER 1985
 CARRIES ON PAGE 4, UNDER THE RUBRIC "SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN,"
 A 1,500-WORD ARTICLE BY ITS SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT M. KOZHUKHOV,
 DATED IN AFGHANISTAN AND ENTITLED "THE ANCIENT FORTRESS."
 THE ARTICLE IS PEGGED TO THE INAUGURATION OF A MEMORIAL TO
 "SOLDIERS-INTERNATIONALISTS" AT THE WALL OF AN ANCIENT FORTRESS IN
 THE MOUNTAIN OASIS OF PAGHMAN. KOZHUKHOV QUOTES "FROM MAJOR
 ISAYEV'S DIARY" A DESCRIPTION OF A BATTLE AND CITES CAPTAIN
 SERGEYEV'S TALLY OF THE OUTCOME: "117 KILLED, 36 CAPTURED,
 30 SURFACE-TO-SURFACE ROCKETS, MEANT FOR THE CITY, REDUCED TO A HEAP
 OF SCRAP METAL. THE BATTALION LOST NO ONE, JUST ONE INJURED...."
 THE AUTHOR GOES ON:
 "I WALKED AROUND THE FORTRESS, LOOKING INTO THE SOLDIERS'
 FAMILIAR FACES, YESTERDAY'S 'MAMA'S BOYS.' ALL THAT IS IN THE PAST
 NOW, BEYOND THE INVISIBLE LINE NOW DIVIDING THEIR LIVES INTO
 'BEFORE' AND 'AFTER.' THEY, THE ONES WHO ARE NOW PERFORMING THE
 SACRED DUTY OF PROLETARIAN SOLIDARITY, HAVE THEIR OWN MEASURE OF
 TIME, LENGTH, AND WEIGHT."
 FOLLOWING FURTHER QUOTATIONS "FROM MAJOR ISAYEV'S DIARY,"
 KOZHUKHOV WRITES ABOUT VYACHESLAV ABRAMOV FROM "THE SMALL TOWN OF
 BRONNITSY NEAR MOSCOW," WHO IS "NO LONGER A SERGEANT -- TWO NEW
 STARS ARE SHINING ON THE SHOULDERBOARDS OF MORTAR SQUAD COMMANDER
 ENSIGN ABRAMOV. HIS REQUEST TO EXTEND HIS SERVICE IN THE RANKS OF
 THE LIMITED CONTINGENT OF SOVIET FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN HAS BEEN
 GRANTED. HE HAS JUST TURNED DOWN A PROPOSAL TO BE TRANSFERRED TO
 ANOTHER SUBUNIT AND WILL STAY IN HIS BATTALION. A NEW DRAFT IS DUE
 SOON. HE, WITH HIS EXPERIENCE, WILL FIND IT EASIER IN THE
 MOUNTAINS. AND THE NEW ONES...THEY'LL MANAGE, TOO." NO FURTHER
 PROCESSING PLANNED. 25 SEP AZ/BENNETT/JB 29/0838Z SEP

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